

MINUTES
WILLIAMSTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
August 25, 2008
7:00 P.M.

Present: Jane B. Allen, Chairman, Tom Costley, Richard C. Steege, David A. Rempell, Ron Turbin

Others Present: Susan Schneski, Edward Rondeau, Tim Kaiser, Peter Fohlin, Kathy Poirot

- 1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING STATEMENT:** Ms. Allen announced that we learned this past week that Anita and Francis Barker will be leaving Williamstown and relocating in the eastern part of the state to be near their daughter. On behalf of all of us, I would like to take this opportunity to applaud them for their example of community service, thank them for their contributions to Williamstown in so many different capacities, and wish them well as they settle into their new community.

Ms. Allen also announced there will be a joint meeting of the Selectmen and Housing Authority on September 22nd to appoint a replacement member to the Housing Authority due to the resignation of Sally Cramer.

- 2. SELECTMEN'S MINUTES:** August 11, 2008 – Mr. Rempell moved to approve the August 11, 2008 minutes. Mr. Turbin seconded and the motion carried with one abstention by Mr. Costley.
- 3. PETITIONER'S REQUEST:** None.
- 4. ITEMS FOR SELECTMEN'S CONSIDERATION:**

A. Appointment to Municipal Scholarship Committee: S. White (2011) – Mr. Rempell moved to appoint Sarah “Sally” White to a three-year term, ending June 30, 2011 on the Municipal Scholarship Committee. Mr. Steege seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Non-resident Request for Cemetery Lot – Mr. Rempell moved to approve two graves in Southlawn Cemetery, Section A, Lot 52, Graves 7 & 8 to Heidi Schneski and Andrew Klatka. Mr. Turbin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Special Municipal Employee Approval – Mr. Turbin moved to approve the special municipal employee exemption for William Barkin, the Williamstown Assessor, who has requested appointment to the Williamstown Historical Commission. Mr. Costley seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

D. Time Warner Cable Resolution – Mr. Costley moved to approve and sign a resolution providing approval for the spin off of Time Warner Cable, Inc. Mr. Steege seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

E. Special Town Meeting September 8, 2008 – Mr. Fohlin reiterated that a Special Town Meeting will be held September 8 at 7 pm in the Municipal Building during a regularly scheduled selectmen's meeting to consider one article to balance the Transfer Station FY09 budget. He said the only solutions available are to raise rates or to appropriate money from the Transfer Station accumulated reserves. He said there is no

need to raise the rates because concurrent with the shortfall in revenue, there has been a reduction in disposal costs. Even though FY08 receipts fell short of expectations, FY08 expenditures were also less than anticipated resulting in a \$20,008 surplus. He concluded that it doesn't seem necessary or responsible to open the elementary school and call out the voters for what amounts to a \$6,200 journal entry to the Transfer Station account. Thus we will convene a brief Special Town Meeting for those in attendance at the September 8 selectmen's meeting to vote the single article.

F. Main Street Waterline Project (Rondeau) – Water and Sewer Superintendent Ed Rondeau reported that his department is excited about a water main project that began last week and should take about a month. The project involves the installation of about 1,000 feet of eight-inch water pipe along West Main Street between North Street and Belden Street and 500 feet of pipe from the intersection of West Main Street and Belden Street to the south side of the bridge on Belden. He said the project would achieve three main goals – providing “good and safe” drinking water, adequate fire protection and outstanding customer service. At times when there was a heavy draw down street, the higher areas such as Buxton Hill Road, Laurie Drive, Hawthorne Road and Thornliebank Road tend to see lower water pressure. Mr. Rondeau said the project should be done by mid-October at a cost of \$35,000 funded by the water and sewer enterprise fund. He said the existing circa 1937 six-inch line will stay and there will be dual water feed going up West Main Street. The project will also include installation of two new fire hydrants, one near the eastern Williams Inn driveway and the Town Hall parking lot and a second one west of Belden Street. Mr. Rondeau said his department will notify home owners that will be affected by the construction letter and door to door. Mr. Rondeau stated this project is long overdue and he is excited to finally get it done.

Mr. Turbin said he received complaints about rusty water in the Lindley Terrace neighborhood and asked if it had any connection to the project. Mr. Rondeau said he is aware of the issue and believed it was being caused by a blocked shut off valve somewhere along that line. Workers have been trying to find the problem for over a year.

5. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT: See attached.

6. OTHER BUSINESS: Ms. Allen said the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority has retained the services of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission to study the bus routes in Williamstown. BRPC Director Nat Karns asked that she send him suggestions such as a possible express service from Williamstown via Route 7S with a stop at Sweetbrook Nursing Home and service on North Hoosac Road to Simonds Road. She asked selectmen to e-mail her any other suggestions they might have.

7. ADJOURN – Mr. Steege moved to adjourn at 7:49 p.m. Mr. Costley seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The next Selectmen meeting is Monday, September 8, 2008 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Turbin
Secretary

RT/kp

